MASTER

XIX

Climate of the Harvest Period

1. C.E.P. Brooks in "The English Climate", p.130-1 gives the following singularities:-

   (a) July, warm period; begins about July 10, ends about July 24

   (b) July, thundery period; begins about July 25, ends about July 31

   (c) Late August, stormy period; begins between August 14 and August 29, average August 20;
   ends between August 20 and September 3, average August 30
   This has occurred around August 20-21 in 12 years out of 52
   and around August 28 in 16 years out of 52.
   Altogether within the larger range it occurred 35 years out of 52.

   (d) Early September, fine; begins between August 21 and September 6, average September 1
   ends between September 1 and 11th, average September 7.
   This has occurred 26 years out of 52, on 18 occasions centred around September 4.

2. L.P. Smith in "Weatherwise Gardening" p.57-61 states for Oxford:-

   (a) If the preceding month was WARM (1°F or more above average) then:-

July was	50% warm	(evens)
	28% average	
	22% cold	(7 to 2 against)
August was	47% warm	(11 to 10 against)
	38% average	
	15% cold	(11 to 2 against)
September was	50% warm	(evens)
	34% average	
	16% cold	(11 to 2 against)

   (b) If the preceding month was COLD (1°F or more below average) then:-

July was	22% warm	(7 to 2 against)
	29% average	
	49% cold	(evens)
August was	17% warm	(5 to 1 against)
	37% average	
	46% cold	(6 to 5 against)
September was	11% warm	(8 to 1 against)
	40% average	
	49% cold	(evens)

3. Using 100 years rainfall records at Kew we find:-

   (a) After 3 months (May, June, July) when the total rainfall was below average for the 3 months as a whole (not individually), then there were
   69% Augusts with rainfall below average (11 to 5 on)

   (b) If the 3 month total was above average, then there were
   39% Augusts with rainfall below average (3 to 2 against)

   (c) If the 3 month total was 130% of average or above, then there were
   20% Augusts with rainfall below average (4 to 1 against)

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(d) If the 3 month total was 150% of average or above, then there never has been an August with below average rainfall

(e) If the 3 month total lay between 69 and 100%, then there were 27% very dry Augusts (less than half average) as against a normal expectation of 18%

(f) If the 3 month total was 130% or above, then there were 53% very wet Augusts (1½ times average) as against a normal expectation of 17%.

4. (a) After 4 months (April to July) when the total rainfall was less than 90% of average, then there were 69% Augusts with rainfall below average (11 to 5 on)

(b) After 4 months when the total was 140% of average or more, then there were 10% Augusts with rainfall below average (9 to 1 against)

(c) If the 4 month total lay between 69 and 100%, then there were 29% very dry Augusts.

(d) If the 4 month total was 130% or above, then there were 50% very wet Augusts

5. (a) After 5 months (March to July) when the total rainfall was less than 110% of average, then there were 65% Augusts with rainfall below average (13 to 7 on)

(b) After 5 months when the rainfall was 130% of average or more, then there were 13% Augusts with rainfall below average (13 to 2 against)

(c) If the 5 month total was below 70% of average, there have been no very wet Augusts

(d) If the 5 month total was 130% of average or more, there have been no very dry Augusts and 47% very wet Augusts

6. (a) After 6 months (February to July) when the total rainfall was less than 120% of average, then there were:- 66% Augusts with rainfall below average (2 to 1 on)

(b) After 6 months with rainfall 130% or above, then there were no Augusts with rainfall below average

(c) If the 6 month total was below 70% of average, there have been no very wet Augusts

(d) If the 6 month total was 130% or above, then there were no very dry Augusts and 58% very wet Augusts

7. The persistence of temperature, warm after warm and cold after cold is marked at all months except in late Spring and late Autumn.

8. The persistence of wetness and dryness is only marked to any great extent at the end of the summer.

Agricultural Memorandum No. XIX. L.P. SMITH.
Harrow.
April 1959.